

Joint Venture Projects abroad where gas is available at reasonable prices.

DAP is a phosphatic decontrolled fertilizer and is covered under the Concession Scheme. The production of the phosphatic fertilizers in the country is almost dependent on the imported raw material/intermediates. The Government is quarterly updating the normative delivered price of DAP based on the prevailing prices of raw material/intermediates in the international market to encourage the indigenous production of DAP. The Government is closely monitoring the availability of all major fertilizers including urea and DAP. The urea is being imported on Government account to bridge the gap between the assessed demand and estimated production. Imports of all other fertilizers including DAP is allowed freely, however, the Government maintains the buffer stock of DAP to meet the sudden spurt in demand.

Reduction of excise duty on medicines

448. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Parliamentary panel attached to his Ministry has asked Government to bring down the excise duty on medicines to 8 per cent from the present 16 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Budget allocation and actual spending on subsidy

†449. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.